

Fall 1995

Vol. 19, No. 4

Safety Audit

by Judy Flavin

Signage, lighting and emergency help topped the list of priorities identified in a report distributed in September on a safety audit of the pathway below Parliament Hill.

The audit group, which included several members of OPPI, said large maps should be placed at all entry points to the system to orient users. Along the route, signs should indicate destinations at each fork in the pathway.

Lighting raised the question of whether the pathway was intended for use both day and night. Several in the group said they would not use the pathway alone at night, regardless of lighting. Others said subtle lighting would extend evening use from present levels and make users more comfortable. As the region's population increases and—planners' hope—more housing is built downtown, the path will see more use.

Emergency help in the form of solar telephones or volunteer or police patrols was also favoured by the group.

The audit was organised in June by the Safer Places Network, which includes local professional organisations of planners, architects and landscape architects, as well as the Women's Action Centre Against

OPPI NOMINATIONS

EASTERN DISTRICT ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS INSTITUTE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS

EXECUTIVE DISTRICT OFFICERS POSITIONS

Nominations

as per Section 1.2, Balloting, O.P.P.I. General By-law; Schedule G, 1991/06/21

POSITION	NOMINEES	NOMINATORS
CHAIRPERSON	Dennis Jacobs	Sandra Candow Daphne Wretham
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Daphne Wretham	Sandra Candow Cameron McEwen
SECRETARY	Grace Strachan	Sandra Candow Daphne Wretham
TREASURER	Derek Waltho	Sandra Candow Daphne Wretham
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE PROGRAMS/EVENTS	Mary Jarvis	Sandra Candow Daphne Wretham
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	Cameron McEwen	Sandra Candow Daphne Wretham
PUBLICATIONS REPRESENTATIVE	Greg Winters	Sandra Candow Daphne Wretham

If any members are interested in any of the executive positions, please contact Sandra Candow at 748-4171

see SAFETY, page 2

CHAIR'S REPORT

By Daphne Wreathem

This will be my final report as Eastern District Chair. Dennis Jacobs, Director of Planning Policy and Housing at the City of Nepean has agreed to allow his name to stand for election as Chair of Eastern District for the next two years. I will seek the position of Vice Chair. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on October 24, 1995 and the OPPI AGM will be held on October 26, 1995. The notice for the Eastern District AGM as well as the list of nominations for positions is included in this issue.

Over the past two years, the Awards event has grown considerably in stature and participation. This seems

to be a worthwhile endeavour to continue. The other event that is consistently well attended is the annual Vines Christmas Party. We have had only moderate success with other program events. Suggestions anyone? The past few years have been very

uncertain for many of our members. However, at such times, a professional organization and the network it provides can be beneficial. Perhaps more emphasis on professional development and instruction activities would be particularly relevant at this time. The comments and ideas of the membership would help in planning the program events for the coming year.

Exploring Alternative Career and Employment Opportunities for Recent Graduates

by Michel Frojmovic

Competition for employment and contract opportunities in the field of planning in Ontario has become increasingly fierce over the past five years. This situation has had a particularly serious impact on recent graduates of planning schools, who often find themselves competing with far more experienced planners vying for the same positions. As a result, recent graduates interested in establishing a planning career in Ontario are faced with tremendous challenges in gaining the practical experience critical for career development.

In response to this challenge, a group of recent planning graduates met with the OPPI's Executive Director in February of this year. The outcome of this meeting was the establishment of the Career Opportunities for Recent Graduates Working Group (CORG), which will explore traditional and alternative avenues for career development available to recent graduates. The first CORG initiative will be a one day

workshop in Ottawa entitled Small Business Development for Planning Consultants. This workshop, which is being sponsored by the Eastern District, will introduce participants to the world of consulting through a series of presentations and discussions led by planning consultants, directors of planning departments, and small business development consultants. While this workshop has been designed for planners with little or no formal planning experience, it is open to all OPPI members.

This workshop is the first in a series that will take place across Ontario over the next few months. For more information on the Eastern District workshop, or future CORG initiatives, contact Susan Smith, OPPI Executive Director at 1-800-668-1448 or Michel Frojmovic, Workshop Coordinator at (613) 728-0335.

VIBRATIONS INFORMATION

Vibrations is the quarterly newsletter of the Eastern District of OPPI. It is distributed free to all EOD members. Others can obtain subscriptions at the rate of \$10 per year (four issues).

We welcome contributions (preferably on DOS or Macintosh diskette) in the form of articles, letters or suggestions for improving *Vibrations*.

Deadline for the next issue (Winter, 1995): **December 1, 1995.**

Advertising rates are \$35 per issue, or \$100 per year (4 issues).

For more information on any of the above, please contact the Editor:

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SAFETY, from page 1

Violence (Ottawa-Carleton) and the RMOC Planning and Property Department. About 35 persons participated, including NCC staff, landscape architecture students, and family groups.

Secondary priorities were support for activity generators, such as picnic facilities or street vendors, who would draw more people into the area—the best way to increase security. Various places where the landscaping needed pruning were also identified.

The audit report was forwarded to the National Capital Commission as input to pathway improvements scheduled for 1996.

OPINION

Blinded Visioning

by Peggy E. Gibson

The City of Ottawa's By-law 55-95 approved this spring to maintain and promote a strong viable and attractive producer-based farmers' market has just been quashed by the Hon. Mr. Justice Paul Cosgrove. It's been the summer of discontent for vendors in the Parkdale and Byward Markets. July saw vendors charged with selling illegal produce and pleading their case to the media and in a Suspension Hearing at City Hall. By-law 55-95 has polarized opinion among vendors, planners, politicians, and the public. It is the product of a visioning exercise run amuck.

Notwithstanding the intentions of the City's strategic planning exercise some of the most concerned stakeholders, namely the vendors, claimed to have been ignored. Witnesses at the Suspension Hearing claimed their representatives resigned, leaving them without a voice to provide their input.

"Non-conforming vendors" as well as vendors who supplement their product with produce grown by others did not fit into the City's Strategic Plan for the markets. When a property becomes non-conforming it continues to enjoy the right to continued existence. This is the language of land use planning. Is it transferrable to economic planning? The answer is no. There is not even a provision in By-law 55-95 for phasing in the City's Plan for the markets. Economic activity in the markets has evolved over time and to expect change to occur with the approval of one by-law is surely unreasonable. The "fit" of this by-law into the current conditions of the markets is far less than seamless.

Furthermore, there seems to be some confusion over the purpose of the by-law. It provides the opportunity to local people (agri-food producers) who grow food (agri-food products) locally (not clearly defined). No selling carrots grown in Navan by your mother. Your mother has to sell

her own carrots. To make sure your mother is selling her own carrots, City of Ottawa inspectors will visit her garden in Navan. This brings up an interesting question of jurisdiction. But I digress. The point is that By-law 55-95 attempts to legislate people through categorization.

In our race to embrace visioning as a process to facilitate change let's not ignore existing conditions and most especially the lives of the people most directly affected. Delineating rules to the vision exercise that attempt to reduce or eliminate dissent among people ignores rather than deals with the conflict inherent in planning. Conflict is the raw material of planning and the process is about its resolution. The final product of this resolution, often a by-law, must pass the user test. The users are those people who are directly impacted. By-law 55-95 failed the test.

Ms. Gibson is a planner with the law firm of Gibson and Augustine.

CALENDAR

Friday, September 22

Community Economic Development Workshop

"What's happening in Ottawa-Carleton?"

Contact: 613-729-2745

Wednesday - Friday, September 27 - 29

Ontario East Municipal Conference and OPPI

Pre-conference Seminar
Kingston

Contact: 613-925-1498

September 29 - October 6 Community Health Week

Explore the links between planning and health

For events listing,
contact: 819-684-9883

Saturday, September 30

Queen's SURP 25th Anniversary

Alumni and friends reunion

Contact: 613-545-2188

Monday - Friday, October 2 - 6

5th Annual Symposium on
Groundwater and Soil Remediation

Toronto

Contact: 613-232-4345

Wednesday, October 11, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Community Mental Health in the '90s-Community...for a Change

6 Epworth Ave, Nepean

Contact: Carolyn Cashman,

613-228-2883,

Fax: 613-228-0825

Wednesday, October 11

Ministry of Environment and Energy
Hydrogeological Technical

Information Requirements for Land Development Applications

Kingston

Contact: 905-456-0266, extension 315

Wednesday - Friday, October 18 - 20

Recycling Council of Ontario
"Making Waste History"

16th Annual Conference and Trade Show, Toronto

Contact: 1-800-263-2849

Wednesday, October 25, 9:00 pm

"The New Urbanism"

CBC Radio, Ideas Series

Wednesday - Saturday November 1 - 4

The Composting Council of Canada
"Composting '95 - Five Years of Progress"

Aylmer, Québec

Contact: 613-224-1741

EOD AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING

HAVE YOU BEEN PROUD OF YOUR WORK LATELY?

If you have, here is the opportunity to let your colleagues, clients, and managers know about it.

It is time to participate in the 1995 EOD Award for Excellence in Planning. The award promotes worthwhile planning practices and projects, by recognizing significant contributions by EOD members, within the District. The award will be offered this year for the fourth time.

CATEGORIES

This award recognizes that good planning can express itself in many ways. Submissions need not be limited to the traditional themes of Official Plans and Zoning By-laws, subdivision plans, and site planning exercises (although these are welcome). Of particular interest to the Committee are those planning initiatives that emanate from municipalities within our district or that are innovative because of their relevance, for example, to sustainable development. Students are encouraged to submit their academic projects.

DEADLINE AND REQUIREMENTS

All submissions must be received at the address below by December 15, 1995. Three copies are required, with a covering letter explaining how the submission fulfills the requirements of the competition. The covering letter should also note the ideal conditions under which the award, if your submission is chosen, should be presented to achieve the greatest impact on the community, constituency or stakeholder it is to affect.

SEND YOUR SUBMISSION TO:
EOD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING
Attention: Cameron B. McEwen
Hazardous Waste Management Branch
Environment Canada
351 St.-Joseph Blvd., 12th Floor
Hull, Québec K1A 0H3
Phone: 819-953-0617

NOTICE OF AGM

*The Eastern Ontario District
Annual General Meeting
will be held on
Tuesday, October 24, 1995 at 6:30 p.m.
at
Nepean Civic Square
101 CentrepoinTE Drive
Room 1a*

ATTENTION PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

OPPI Membership Course (Exam B)
is being offered.
The Fall 1995 (Ottawa) course is now full.
Please call Kevin Harper at
1-800-668-1448 if you're interested in
the course for the next session.

Anyone interested in having a
"Planner at the OMB"
session in Eastern Ontario, please call Kevin Harper at OPPI
(1-800-668-1448) to determine interest.

1996 CIP/ICU Conference

June 2-5, 1996, Saskatoon

Call for Presentations

Present your ideas and experiences to over 400 professionals from across Canada and the U.S. at the CIP/ICU Conference.

Theme:

"Planning for Success"

Sub-themes:

"Success with the Environment"

"Successful Strategies for 2000"

Send your proposal before November 15, 1995 to:

Denton Yeo, Program Chair
Saskatoon '96 CIP Conference
c/o City of Prince Albert
1084 Central Ave.,
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
S6V 0P3

for more information, call 306-953-4370

or fax: 306-953-4353

The Community Mental Health Symposium Presents: **Community Mental Health in the '90s-Community...for a Change**

Wednesday, October 11, 1995, 8:00am to 5:00pm
Cityview United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue, Nepean

Keynote Speaker: **John Kretzmann**, author of *Building Communities From the Inside Out*, Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research, Northwestern University.

For information contact Carolyn Cashman

Tel (613) 228-2883,

Fax (613) 228-0825.



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